

CONFIDENTIAL



CIA/RR CB 65-30
May 1965

Copy No.

203

INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

PROSPECTS FOR AGRICULTURE
IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AS OF MID-APRIL 1965

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Research and Reports

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

WARNING

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

PROSPECTS FOR AGRICULTURE
IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AS OF MID-APRIL 1965

Prospects for the production of food in the Communist countries as of mid-April 1965 did not appear to deviate significantly from the average level of recent years. During the remainder of the growing season, however, weather conditions will be of paramount importance in determining the actual level of production achieved as spring crops are only now being planted. Prospects for the winter grain crop range from relatively poor in Communist China to excellent in the northern Communist countries of Eastern Europe and are fair in the USSR and the Balkans.

Communist China, the USSR, and, as a group, the Communist countries of Eastern Europe* thus far during the current trade year (1 July 1964 - 30 June 1965) have all been net importers of grain from the Free World. Total grain imports by the Communist countries from the Free World during 1965 are tentatively projected to be on the order of 15 million metric tons, with Communist China and Eastern Europe each accounting for roughly 6 million tons and the USSR for the remainder.

1. USSR

As of mid-April, crop prospects in the USSR were relatively favorable, although not quite as promising as they were at this time in 1964. Soil moisture conditions were fair to excellent in almost all of the most important agricultural areas. Sowing of spring crops has just begun in the southern regions of the country.

About 42 million hectares** of winter grains, approximately half in winter wheat, were seeded last fall for harvest in 1965 -- an area about equal to that seeded in recent years. A significant portion of winter grains were seeded after the optimum dates for sowing and hence, in spite of the comparatively mild winter of 1964/65, did not achieve the most satisfactory stage of development before dormancy. A severe cold spell at the end of March may have inflicted further damage to winter grains, although the extent of fall drought and winterkill is not known.

* Including Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, and Yugoslavia.

** One hectare is equal to 2.471 acres.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Several million hectares of winter grains may have to be reseeded. It has been reported that in Rostov Oblast, an important winter grain area that was severely affected by the fall drought, half of the winter wheat did not germinate and a third of that which germinated was in poor condition. Soviet officials indicated that winter grain areas which were damaged sufficiently to necessitate reseeding will be resown this spring, primarily with wheat. The area in buckwheat and millet is being expanded as a result of current emphasis on these crops.

Current prospects in the "new lands" areas of Kazakhstan and Siberia are fairly favorable; however, moisture reserves in parts of Kazakhstan, while not critically low, are not as high as they were in April 1964. The area in clean fallow is to be expanded this year, compared with 1964, but only a slight reduction in the area in grain and wheat is planned for Kazakhstan.

Prospects for the production of livestock products are the most favorable in recent years because of a much improved feed-livestock ratio. Overfulfillment of the current procurement plans for meat, milk, and eggs in the first quarter of 1965 is a reflection of abundant feed supplies resulting from the very satisfactory grain harvest in 1964.

Contracts by the USSR to purchase wheat from the Free World thus far in 1965 total 3.2 million tons. At least 2.2 million tons of this wheat apparently are for shipment to the USSR; the remainder is destined for Cuba (550,000 tons) and the Communist countries of Eastern Europe (at least 250,000 tons). The USSR has purchased this wheat in spite of claims that the harvest of wheat as well as state procurements of wheat in 1964 were second only to those in 1958. A plausible explanation of this apparent contradiction between the size of the domestic wheat crop and the need for relatively large imports is that an unusually large share of the wheat procured domestically by the USSR in 1964 was of low quality. It also is possible that even the relatively high level of domestic procurements of wheat in 1964 was not sufficient to cover current requirements and to permit additions to strategic reserves.

2. Eastern Europe

The condition of winter grains (wheat, rye, barley) as of mid-April is estimated to range from fair in the Balkans to excellent in the northern Communist countries of Eastern Europe. Except in

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Albania, soil moisture conditions on 1 April were adequate and better than a year ago. In the southern countries, especially Albania, Yugoslavia, and Hungary, the development of winter wheat was adversely affected by late seeding, and, in addition, the area seeded was smaller than in the fall of 1963. Reported shortages of spring wheat seed in some countries could result in a smaller total area of wheat for harvest in 1965 than in 1964.

Spring fieldwork is now in full swing and is ahead of last year in the northern countries. However, the fieldwork in the southern countries is somewhat behind that of a year ago as a result of the unusually large amount of deep plowing needed to be done this spring because this plowing was not completed last fall. This situation threatens to delay spring seeding, which in turn would tend to reduce the potential yields of spring crops. Some expansion of the spring grain area (primarily corn) can be expected in Albania, Yugoslavia, Hungary, and possibly Rumania because of the decrease in winter grain acreage. Most Eastern European countries also are planning to expand acreages of industrial crops, vegetables, and legumes this spring.

Total imports of grain by the Communist countries of Eastern Europe, which reached a record level of about 8.7 million tons in the 1963/64 trade year, are expected to approximate 9.5 million tons during 1964/65. A tentative forecast of grain import requirements for 1965/66 indicates no significant change from the expected level of 1964/65.

3. Communist China

The prospects for the winter wheat harvest in Communist China as of mid-April were not as favorable as at the same time in 1964. The area sown to winter wheat in the fall of 1964 appears to have been about 10 percent less than in the fall of 1963. Because of continuous wet weather this past fall in North China, the conditions for sowing winter wheat were poor in many areas, and much of the wheat was sown late -- a practice that generally results in reduced yields.

The unusually warm weather during the winter and early spring in North and Northwest China reportedly increased the incidence of wheat rust. Waterlogging still persists in the low areas of the plain, while in the higher areas where wheat was sown, low precipitation

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

and an unusually warm winter reportedly have caused some concern about drought conditions. On the average, however, soil moisture levels are higher than at the same time last year. It is too early to determine the prospects for the early rice crop. Should the early rice crop be unusually good, however, it could offset the losses expected in the winter wheat harvest. Soil moisture levels appear to be favorable in most parts of Central, East, and Southwest China. In South China, the country's major early rice area, soil moisture conditions are good, with the exception of the important Canton Delta and the Swatow area. The successful transplanting of the early rice crop is dependent on the timely arrival of the spring monsoon, and weather information as of mid-April indicates an increase in monsoonal activity in the coastal areas.

Although prospects for the early grain crop are not bright, an average harvest of spring-sown crops (which account for about three-fourths of the total grain harvest) could still provide a total grain crop substantially above the low level achieved in 1964. China purchased about 6.6 million tons of grain from the West in calendar year 1964 for domestic use. Well over 4 million tons have been ordered thus far this year, and further talks with grain suppliers are now underway or planned.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T01003A002300030001-2

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T01003A002300030001-2

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T01003A002300030001-2

CONTROL RECORD FOR SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

SERIES NUMBER CIA/RR CB 65-30		CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT Confidential	DISTRIBUTION TO RC 50	
DATE OF DOCUMENT May 1965		NUMBER OF COPIES 280	NUMBER IN RC	
COPY NO. (S)	RECIPIENT	DATE		
		SENT	RETURNED	
32	AD/RR 25X1A	11 May 65	30 Dec 65	
33	DAD/RR	"		
172	██████████ OCR	12 May 65		
173	██████████ St/P	"		
174	CGS/HR/Ops, 1G81, Hq.	"		
175	██			

25X1A

COPY
NO. (S)

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T01003A002300030001-2

RECIPIENT

DATE

SENT

RETURNED

44, 214, 215, 217-221, 47 PC

17 Jul 67

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Distribution of Current Support Brief No. 65-30, Prospects for
Agriculture in Communist Countries as of Mid-April 1965 -- May 1965
(CONFIDENTIAL)

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
1	O/DDI, Room 7E32, Hdqtrs.
2 - 3	NIC
4 - 12	OCI Internal
13 - 14	ONE
15 - 20	St/CS/RR 25X1A
21	O/DDI - [REDACTED]
22 - 30	[REDACTED] 25X1A
31	NSAL
32 - 280	ORR Distribution, St/A/DS, Room GH0915, Hdqtrs. (sent direct to St/A/DS - 12 May 1965)

(Distributed by OCR)



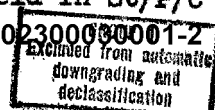
CONFIDENTIAL

St/A/DS Distribution of Current Support Brief No. 65-30, Prospects for
Agriculture in Communist Countries as of Mid-April 1965 -- May 1965
(CONFIDENTIAL)

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
32	AD/RR
32	DA/D/RR
34	SA/RR
35	Ch/E
36	St/PR
37 - 41	D/A (1 each branch)
42 - 47	D/FW (1 each branch)
48 - 54	D/RI (1 each branch)
55	MRA
56 - 60	D/P (1 each branch)
61 - 66	D/F (1 each branch)
67	St/PS
68 - 74	D/IS (1 each branch)
75 - 76	D/GG
77 - 78	D/GC
79	D/GC/X
80 - 85	RID/SS/DS, Unit 4, Room 1B4004, Hq.
86	St/P/A
87	St/FM
88	Analyst/Branch (RI/AG)
89	GR/CR
90	BR/CR
91	FIB/SR/CR, Room 1G27, Hq.
92	Library/CR
93	IPI/CR
94	VMR, A-18
95	Chief, OCR/FDD
96	CD/OO
97	OCI/SA/R, Room 5G19, Hq.
98	DDI/CGS, Room 7F35, Hq.
99 - 100	DDI/CGS/HR, Room 1G81, Hq.
101	DDI/RS, Room 4G39, Hq.
102 - 104	OSI
105	OBI
106	DD/S&T/SpINT
107 - 108	OTR/IS/IP, Room 532, 1000 Glebe (1 - OTR/SIC)
109	NPIC/CSD/REF, Room 1S518, [REDACTED]
110	Commandant National War College, Ft. Leslie McNair, Attn: Classified Records Section, Room 26, National War College Building, Washington, D. C.
111 - 112	Assistant Secretary of Defense, ISA, Room 4D825, Pentagon
113 - 151	Defense Intelligence Agency, DIAAQ-3, A Building, Arlington Hall Station
152 - 155	USIA, IRS/A, Room 1002, 1750 - Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., Attn: Warren Phelps
156 - 167	State, INR Communications Center, Room 6527, State Dept. Bldg.
168 - 169	Dr. Neilson Debevoise, NSC, Room 365, Executive Office Bldg.
170 - 171	Frank M. Charrette, Agency for International Development, Chief, Statistics and Reports Division, Room A-204, State Annex #10
172 - 230	St/P/C/RR, Room 4F41, Hdqtrs. (held in St/P/C - 12 May 65)
231 - 280	Records Center

25X1A

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T01003A002300030001-2

14 May 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Dissemination Control Branch, DD/CR
FROM : Acting Chief, Publications Staff, ORR
SUBJECT : Transmittal of Material

It is requested that the attached copies of CIA/RR CB 65-30, Prospects for Agriculture in Communist Countries as of Mid-April 1965, May 1965, Confidential, be forwarded as follows:

<u>Copy No.</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
202	Department of State, INR Communications Center, Room 6527, State Dept. Bldg. Attn: Mr. Marshall Green, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Far Eastern Affairs, Room 6208, State Department
203	Department of State, INR Communications Center, Room 6527, State Dept. Bldg. Attn: Mr. David Henry, Director, Office of Soviet Affairs, Room 4217, State Department
204	Department of State, INR Communications Center, Room 6527, State Dept. Bldg. Attn: Mr. Harold C. Vedeler, Director, Office of East European Affairs, Room 5220, State Dept.
205	Mr. Francis Bator, White House Staff, Room 379, Executive Office Building

25X1A

4 Attachments

ACTION COMPLETED

The dissemination requested by
this memorandum has been completed.

BY: HCB

Date: 18 May 65

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T01003A002300030001-2

CONFIDENTIAL

Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T01003A002300030001-2

18 May 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Dissemination Control Branch, DD/CR
FROM : Chief, Publications Staff, ORR
SUBJECT : Transmittal of Material

It is requested that the attached copies of CIA/RR CB 65-30,
Prospects for Agriculture in Communist Countries as of Mid-April 1965,
May 1965, Confidential, be forwarded as follows:

State, INR Communications Center,
Room 6527, State Dept. Bldg.
Suggested distribution for
Embassies in Hong Kong, Taipei,
and Tokyo

25X1A


Acting

ACTION COMPLETED

The dissemination requested by
this memorandum has been completed.

BY: *NCB*

Date: *20 May 65*

Attachments:

Copies #210 - #212 of CB 65-30

cc: CGS/RB

Approved For Release 2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T01003A002300030001-2

CONFIDENTIAL

